

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Public Utilities Commission

Minutes of Open Meeting Held on January 14, 2019

An Open Meeting of the Public Utilities Commission was held on Monday, January 14, 2019 at 2:30 P.M. in Hearing Room A, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island to discuss, deliberate and/or vote on the following dockets.

Present: Chairperson Margaret Curran, Commissioner Marion Gold, Commissioner Abigail Anthony, Cynthia Wilson-Frias, Todd Bianco, Maggie Hogan, Sharon Colby Camara, John Harrington and Alan Nault.

- I. Chairperson Curran called the Open Meeting to order at 2:30 P.M. A quorum was present.
- II. **Approval of the Minutes of Open Meeting held on February 9, 2018 and February 16, 2018** – Commissioner Anthony moved to approve the Minutes of Open Meetings. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- III. **4618 – Providence Water Supply Board** – The PUC considered Providence Water’s Request to Transfer Funds From its Restricted Revenue Reserve Account to its Operating Account submitted on October 27, 2017 and supplemental request on October 17, 2018. Bristol County Water submitted an objection to Providence Water’s supplemental request. The Division submitted a memorandum recommending approval. After review, Commissioner Gold moved to authorize Providence Water to transfer funds to Infrastructure Replacement Account from the Restricted Revenue Reserve Account. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

Commissioner Gold directed Providence Water to work with PUC and Division staff to review national best practices for funding distribution system improvement in light of declining revenue in ways that benefit the ratepayers. Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- IV. **4610 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – The PUC considered National Grid’s Unopposed Motion to Withdraw its November 9, 2017 filing requesting to include the Apponaug Substation Site to list sites contained in the Environmental Response Fund Tariff. Chairperson Curran moved to grant the motion. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gold and unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**
- V. **4913 – The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid** – The PUC considered National Grid’s December 5, 2018 Tariff Advice Filings to amend the Company’s electric and gas tariffs. The Company proposes several minor amendments and administrative in nature. The Division submitted a position memorandum

recommending approval of the tariffs as submitted. Chairperson Curran moved to approve National Grid's tariff filing as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gold and unanimously passed.

Vote 3-0.

VI. **4604 – RI Office of Energy Resources** – The Office of Energy Resources (OER) submitted a budget request submitted on November 7, 2018 and amendment to the budget request on December 21, 2018. The requested funds will be used to perform ceiling price studies for the 2020 Renewable Energy Growth Program and conduct solar quality assurance field case studies during the 2019 Renewable Energy Growth Program. The Division submitted a position memorandum recommending approval. After review, the following motions were made:

1) Commissioner Anthony moved to grant approval of \$65,000 to fund the ceiling price studies. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gold and unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

2) Commissioner Anthony moved to grant approval of \$132,075 to fund Tasks 1-7 of solar quality assurance filed case studies. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.** There is outstanding discovery in Docket 4892 relating to Tasks 8 & 9.

3) Commissioner Anthony moved that the PUC postpone a decision on \$8,500 of the budget request, for Task 8 & Task 9, to continue its review concurrently with Docket No. 4892, the RE Growth tariffs and enrollment rules. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

4) The Commission directed the DG Board, that prior submitting a budget request for the 2020 quality assurance study, it should solicit comments on who should bear the cost of the quality assurance study. **Vote 3-0.**

VII. The PUC reviewed the eligibility applications submitted in the following dockets. PUC Consultant recommended conditional approval with the requirement that the applicants provide evidence when the facility achieves commercial operation and is assigned a NEPOOL GIS identification number. Chairperson Curran moved to postpone decisions in Dockets 4905, 4906, 4907 and 4908. Public comment was received concerning these dockets and more time was needed to review.

Commissioner Anthony seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 3-0.**

- a. **Docket No. 4905 – Dry Bridge Solar 1, LLC's** application for eligibility certification of the Dry Bridge Solar 1 generation unit, a 10 MW AC solar facility located in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, as a New Renewable Energy Resource.
- b. **Docket No. 4906 – Dry Bridge Solar 2, LLC's** application for eligibility certification of the Dry Bridge Solar 2 generation unit, a 10 MW AC solar facility located in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, as a New Renewable Energy Resource.
- c. **Docket No. 4907 – Dry Bridge Solar 3, LLC's** application for eligibility certification of the Dry Bridge Solar 3 generation unit, a 10 MW AC solar

facility located in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, as a New Renewable Energy Resource.

- d. **Docket No. 4908 – Dry Bridge Solar 4, LLC’s** application for eligibility certification of the Dry Bridge Solar 4 generation unit, a 10 MW AC solar facility located in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, as a New Renewable Energy Resource.

VIII. **Docket No. 4909 – Exeter Renewables 1, LLC (Applicant)** – The Applicant submitted an application for eligibility certification of the Exeter Renewables 1 generation unit, a 10 MW AC solar facility located in Exeter, Rhode Island, as a New Renewable Energy Resource. PUC Consultant recommended conditional approval with the requirement that the applicant provide evidence when the facility achieves commercial operation and is assigned a NEPOOL GIS identification number. Chairperson Curran moved to grant conditional approval as recommended by PUC Consultant. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 3-0.**

IX. There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Curran moved to adjourn the Open Meeting at 2:54 P.M. A web video of the Open Meeting discussion can be viewed at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/WqQyXw296dg>.